

REMARKS

Drawing Amendments

The Examiner is requested to approve the accompanying replacement drawing sheets. Reference numerals are added to designate the face 20 of the hoistway wall in Figure 2. The face is inherently included in the hoistway as the planar surface of the hoistway wall. In addition, replacement sheets for Figures 5 and 6 including a previously approved amendment are attached.

Response to Official Action

In response to the Official Action mailed April 8, 2003, Applicant amends his application and requests reconsideration. In this Amendment, claims 7-12 are added and no claims are canceled, so that claims 1-12 are now pending. No new matter has been added.

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) by lacking reference signs for the claim element "face." Applicant proposes to add reference numeral 20 to point out the "face" depicted in Figure 2. The specification is amended to refer to the face by the reference number added to Figure 2. The face is inherently included as the planar surface of the hoistway wall.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Only claims 1-4 were rejected. The Official Action makes no mention of claims 5 and 6, which were added in the Response to Official Action filed December 27, 2002. Applicant assumes that claims 5 and 6, like claims 2-4, are also allowable, if the rejection of claim 1 is overcome. Moreover, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 5 and 6, along with newly added claims 7-12, be given full consideration.

Claim 1 was rejected as confusing with regard to the "protrusion" including either a "landing floor sill" or a "landing floor door mechanism." The confusion is understood to be founded on an unstated assertion that the elements of the Markush group are not sufficiently similar. In this Amendment, the "landing floor sill" is deleted from the Markush group of claim 1, so the rejection is moot with respect to that limitation. The "landing floor door mechanism" is shown in Figure 2. That landing floor door mechanism 14 projects from the face 20 into the hoistway. Unless the term "face" has been misinterpreted, Applicant does not understand the assertion that the landing floor door mechanism 14 does not project from the face 20 into the hoistway. Accordingly, Applicant contends that the amendments to the drawings and the specification have resolved any confusion as to the language of claims 1-6.

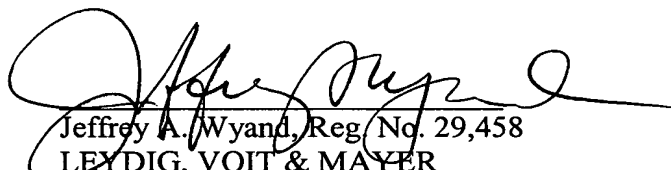
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The Official Action also asserted that "face" was unclear as to whether it applied to one portion of the surface of the hoistway wall, or the entire surface of the hoistway wall. This Amendment includes amendments to the specification and drawings to clarify that "face" includes the entire surface of the hoistway wall, except, of course, where a protrusion (such as building structure 16 or landing floor door mechanism 14) or an opening 17 exists (see amended Figure 2 and the amendments to the specification). The current amendments resolve any confusion as to the meaning of "face" as recited in claim 1 and new claim 7. Furthermore, the differentiation of claims 2 and 6 demonstrates that the "face" has several openings (numeral 17 in Figure 2), thus "face" applies to the entire surface of the hoistway, except the protrusions and the openings.

New claims 7-12 are submitted to include the landing floor sill removed from claim 1. In the depicted embodiment, the landing floor sill 15 does not specifically project from the face 18. Accordingly, new claim 7 is a complement to amended claim 1. New claim 7 is substantially similar to amended claim 1, except that claim 7 recites that the landing floor sill rests within the hoistway, spaced apart from the face. Thus, the control panel may still project into an area of the hoistway that does not horizontally extend beyond the area occupied by the landing floor sill. New claims 8-12 correspond to claims 2-6, but conform to the language of claim 7.

In view of the clarifying amendment, the rejection of claims 1-4 should be withdrawn, and claims 1-12 should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


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